

COMMANDER'S RETIREE COUNCIL
Fort Rucker, Alabama

The Commander's Retiree Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on 3 March 2011 at the Fort Rucker Landing. It was the 266th regularly scheduled meeting since the Council was established in 1973.

1. Members present/absent and advisors present were:

MEMBERS (Army Retiree, except as indicated)

PRESENT

BG Douglas Smith
COL Bob Bunting
COL James Hyers
LTC Collins
CW4 Bob Cooper
Mrs. Marie Wilkins

CSM Gene Nelson
CSM James Harris
SMS Jean A. Woodruff, USAF
1SG Ken Prier
SFC Bernett Jergenson
SFC Ralph Reed
TSGT Bill Bieber, USAF

MEMBERS ABSENT

SFC Rickey Jones

ADVISORS PRESENT

COL James Muskopf, Garr CDR
Mr. Jim Hughes, PAO
Mr. Tim Laster, DFMWR

COL Patrick Denman, LAHC CDR
Mr. Chris Moore, RSO
Mr. Joe Escobar, AAFES

2. COL Bunting called the meeting to order at 1130 and COL Hyers opened the meeting with prayer.

3. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as written.

4. Old Business. None

5. Committee Reports

a. Public Affairs - CSM Nelson reported that the Enterprise Retiree Committee discussed their August and October 2011 activity plans. The 98th Army Band will perform at the August activity at the Enterprise Civic Center. The dates for both activities will be discussed at later meetings.

b. Legislative affairs - COL Hyers reported there may be a cost of living increase this year.

Barring another implosion of the economy, Retirees will see at least a modest COLA in 2012. Some back-tracking was done by Congress on discussions about TRICARE fee increases. TRICARE Prime seems to be most likely affected. Other bills of interest to the military are posted on the MOAA web site. CW4 Cooper and COL Bunting gave a report on the Town Hall meeting in Daleville with Cong. Martha Roby. The report was favorable about her support of the military. COL Bunting reminded everyone that paychecks will arrive even if the government shuts down after mid March.

c. Health Care - COL Denman discussed the on-going construction and outlined the changes and improvements expected as a result of the construction. He also discussed the upcoming partnership between the active force and the VA. The VA will have access to current member medical records. The end result will be a much improved process in documenting a disability. COL Denman reported on the "Active Shooter" exercise conducted in February. The activity was conducted safely and much was learned in the after-action process.

d. Community activity – Activities listed in the monthly MWR calendar were highlighted.

e. Commissary - COL Muskopf reported on current and planned construction. Of particular note was his discussion about the new Commissary. There is a strong possibility that the construction could start as early as 2013. The site has been approved with 36 acres dedicated to the new Commissary (this is 11 more acres than the current site). He requested that when making comments about post services, he recommends you include an assessment of the current facility with the quality of the service. While the service may be outstanding, we should not become satisfied with a substandard facility.

f. Retiree Volunteer Support - No Report

g. Golf Course - CW4 Cooper discussed on-going construction on the golf course.

h. PX - Mr. Escobar discussed an on-going sales at the PX and encouraged anyone interested in the purchase of a gun to visit the store. He also discussed the opportunities available when shopping on-line for products not found in the store.

i. Equestrian Center - 1SG Prier discussed the activities at the center. He reported that the horse housing facilities were being well used and that occupancy rates were very high. Numerous activities are planned for both the experienced and inexperienced rider. He encouraged all to visit the area.

j. Outdoor Recreation - SFC Jergenson discussed the deer population on post and the state regulations regarding that population. Fishing activities were discussed, and upcoming turkey hunting seasons were mentioned. Included in the discussion was the on-going problem with wild pigs on the installation (especially in the vicinity of the golf course).

k. Bowling Alley - SMS Woodruff discussed on-going ideas for the bowling alley. She stated that the bowling alley was "still rolling along".

1. RAD - Nothing new to report at this time.
6. Advisors' Comments. The Garrison Commander discussed road paving projects. The projects done so far have been completed in a very timely manner and with a minimum of inconvenience to travelers. The plan now is for the paving of the road to the camping area at the lake.
7. New Business. None.
8. The meeting was adjourned at 1240. The next meeting will be 7 April 2011 at The Landing.

Approved via-email

Bob Bunting
COL, Retired
Co-Chairman

Approved via-email

Gene Nelson
CSM, Retired
Co-Chairman

Prepared by:

Gene Nelson
CSM, Retired
Co-Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Muskopf', is written over a horizontal line.

JAMES A. MUSKOPF
Colonel, Aviation
Garrison Commander